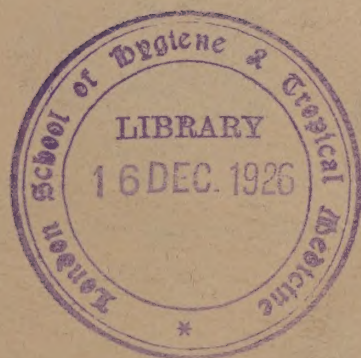


~~Y~~ ~~8~~ ~~7~~ ~~5~~ ~~6~~ AS. 756 P. 4760

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

SPEECHES AT A LUNCHEON
TO THE PRIME MINISTERS
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DOMINIONS & INDIA
TO THE IMPERIAL
CONFERENCE

1926

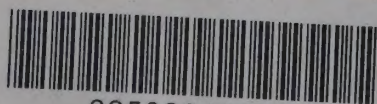


ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD

LONDON OFFICES

14 TRINITY SQUARE, E.C.3

WELLCOME LIBRARY
General Collections
P
342



22502942885

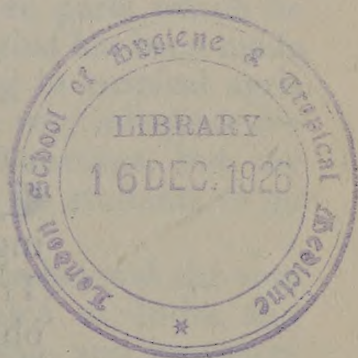
THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

SPEECHES AT A LUNCHEON
TO THE PRIME MINISTERS
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DOMINIONS & INDIA
TO THE IMPERIAL
CONFERENCE

1926



Via colendi baud facilis



ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD

LONDON OFFICES

14 TRINITY SQUARE, E.C.3

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

SPEECHES AT A LUNCHEON
TO THE PRIME MINISTERS
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DOMINIONS OF INDIA
TO THE IMPERIAL
CONFERENCE

1926



C Some particulars regard-
ing the Imperial College of
Tropical Agriculture and its
objects and work will be
found on page 12.

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD
14 TRINITY SQUARE, E.C. 3

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND THE DOMINIONS

AT a luncheon given by the Governing Body to the Dominion Prime Ministers and representatives at the Carlton Hotel, on November 12th, 1926, Mr. Amery announced that the King had approved the grant of a Royal Charter of Incorporation to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. He further stated that with contributions from His Majesty's Government, the Empire Marketing Board, and the Lancashire cotton industry, Lord Milner's fund of £100,000 was now almost complete.

Sir Arthur Shipley, who presided, said: In talking about the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture I would emphasise the importance of the word "Imperial." The College, which owes its inception to the foresight of Lord Milner, had to be placed somewhere, and for many reasons, such as variety of soils, absence of hurricanes, accessibility from the centre of the Empire, Trinidad was chosen. But the College sends out its trained students to the whole of the British Empire, and especially to those parts which lie within the Tropics. It is the first attempt that has been made in any country to give a detailed training in tropical agriculture. It is true that there is a college very adequate for our French-speaking Dependencies, at Mauritius, but the question of language makes it difficult for its students to go to many parts of the Empire.

A large portion of the King's Dominions beyond the seas is tropical. Almost half Australia, a third of India and Burma, vast tracts of Africa, British Guiana, and innumerable islands in the East and West Indies and the Pacific Ocean are tropical; and still larger portions of the Empire are sub-tropical. Nevertheless, there is a great dearth of agriculturists who have had a thorough training in tropical agriculture throughout the Empire. Men are wanted everywhere—as advisers in agriculture, administrators, estate managers, and it is this want that the Trinidad College is hoping gradually to satisfy. Already we have sent out our trained students to the Sudan, the Gold Coast, South Africa, Uganda, Ceylon and Nyasaland.

One of our difficulties is that there is not at present a sufficient supply of schoolboys with any inkling of biological training or method. Our schools are hardly awake to the importance of giving boys some elementary training in biology. It is an expensive subject to teach, whereas chemistry and physics are not so costly. Recently, owing to what I venture to think is a mistaken policy, a boy can take honours in the Natural Science Tripos at Cambridge in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. In the olden days he had to take at least one biological subject and the natural tendency to aspirants for degrees is to take the easiest path, to continue their school work, and not take up a new subject. At the present moment the market for the chemist and engineer is gravely overstocked, whereas there is a really appalling dearth of entomologists and mycologists for the whole Empire. This state of affairs we are endeavouring to redress. Every year the dependence of every part of the Empire on the Tropics for food supplies and raw materials becomes more pronounced. Cocoa, tea, coffee, sugar, rubber, various oil-producing nuts, citrus fruits and copra, bananas, logwood, tobacco, cotton, sponges, sisal-hemp all come from the Tropics, and to develop the cultivation of these products we must have more brains, and better trained brains.

It almost looks as if the production of coal has ceased to be an economic problem, and the Americans are warning each other that the supply of oil in the world is not inexhaustible. Great Britain has few waterfalls, and this source of power, which is so productive in Italy and Norway and elsewhere, is wanting with us; but she has in the Tropics a practically unlimited supply of alcohol, for alcohol can be manufactured from the luxuriant vegetation of the Tropics, whose growth nothing seems to check or to lessen. There are those who think that alcohol will be the main source of supplying energy in the not too far-distant future, and if so, it is to the Tropics we must look for the cheapest and most easily obtained supply of this spirit.

The College at Trinidad is the only college in the world which trains specialists in tropical agriculture, but it is not only a training ground, it is also the centre for research, and our very able staff spends a considerable proportion of its time in investigating not only insects and fungoid diseases, but such questions as the crossing of plants to produce better stock and the fixing of certain permanent character-

istics on their progeny, which we can, owing to the re-discovery of Mendel's law, now successfully accomplish.

The two great problems that lie before us are how to provide adequately a sufficient supply of men of science, and how to develop agricultural products of every kind.

With the generous help of H.M. Government, the Empire Marketing Board, and the Lancashire cotton industry, we have been able to arrange for the construction of a hostel and for certain additions to our buildings and laboratories.

At the present time the College is full, and if it is to develop as it ought we must enlarge it still further, for the field is indeed great and the labourers are but few.

It is our confident hope that the great Dominions overseas will take their part in securing the development of this great Imperial movement, and we are particularly glad to have this opportunity of welcoming the Dominion Prime Ministers, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, and the representatives of the Dominions overseas, and of telling them something about the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

MR. AMERY ON THE CLAIMS OF THE COLLEGE.

The Right Hon. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Dominions, said that the Government had taken the deepest interest in the formation of the Imperial College, and in the work which had been done for it by the late Lord Milner, and since his death, by Lord Burnham, whom he was glad to see present. The fund of £100,000 which Lord Milner had endeavoured to raise for the purposes of the College, was now almost complete. This result had been achieved by the grant of £15,000 which he had been able to secure from the Treasury last year, and a sum of £42,000 which had been contributed jointly by the Empire Marketing Board and the Lancashire cotton industry, whose generosity he would like to acknowledge. He hoped that the balance of the fund would be speedily forthcoming, and that further, the College would be provided with an endowment fund to meet future needs. The Empire Marketing Board proposed to take into consideration an annual grant towards the maintenance of the College, but that would not diminish the need for a substantial endowment fund to place the institution beyond all financial risks. At the same time, it was of interest to know that the stability and permanence of the Imperial College had been recognised by the fact

which he was able to make known, that the King had been graciously pleased to approve the grant to it of a Royal Charter of Incorporation. The College aimed both at research and practical training in the science and practice of tropical agriculture, and in that way it kept theory all the time in close touch with practical work which would be performed by the students. He wished it to be clearly understood that the Imperial College existed for the benefit of the whole Empire. The Colonial Office recognised that all men appointed to agricultural departments in colonies must be highly trained men, and had arranged that all successful applicants to the agricultural staffs overseas should spend one year at the College. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and the Government of South Africa had also recognised this need. It was of immense importance that the Colonial Empire—all of which was in the Tropics and Sub-tropics—should have adequately trained agriculturists. The Dominions in the temperate zones were equally interested. It had been truly said by List that in the marriage of the tropical and temperate parts of the Empire lay the key to the economic development of the future. With modern mass production and large populations living on a high standard, that was even more true than eighty years ago. There was a continually increasing demand for tropical produce. The possibilities of development in the Tropics were almost unlimited. But the creative energies of the sun, which made possible that development, needed to be controlled by science; uncontrolled they produced the weed as readily as the useful plant, and multiplied every species of insect or disease destructive to plant or animal life. He confidently appealed to the representatives from Dominions overseas to interest themselves in the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and to afford it practical support.

AUSTRALIA'S PROMISE OF SUPPORT.

The Right Hon. S. M. Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia, said that the Dominion Prime Ministers had come to learn something of this country. The Dominion he represented took the greatest interest in the work of the College and wished it all the success it hoped for. They took an interest in the College, and he hoped all its requirements would be met. They must all realise the possibilities of the tropical possessions. Though Australia was not in

the Tropics, part of it was sub-tropical, and the country was interested in the work of the College. He did not think the possibilities of the tropical countries were generally recognised. By paying more attention to tropical countries and their produce they would increase the wealth of the Empire and so go some way towards meeting and supplying its own needs. The only way was to determine to solve the problems of tropical development. If they remembered the great wealth that would come thereby, and that they could raise the standard of living throughout the world, they would recognise their duty in the matter. If there was anything his Government could do to assist in the work of the College they would be only too pleased to do it, because they believed that the College was doing a great and useful work.

NEW ZEALAND'S SUPPORT.

The Right Hon. J. G. Coates, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said that he would like to endorse what had been said regarding the valuable work done by Lord Milner. He realised that one of the pressing needs of the College was increased accommodation. Those responsible for the formation of the College deserved very cordial congratulation. In his opinion, he thought many of the professions, such as law, engineering, &c., were somewhat overdone; in other words, that there were too many students offering. For that reason, any other avenues providing openings for our young professional men were to be encouraged. New Zealand was not a tropical country, although Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and the mandated territory of Western Samoa were tropical territories. There was no doubt that students from the College could be usefully employed in these outlying portions of the Dominion. It might be possible, also, for the Dominion to supply one or two students for the College, although he realised that the institution was at present taxed to full capacity. The manner in which New Zealand could assist in the work of the College would be a matter for the consideration of the Government. In any case, the movement had his most hearty support.

CANADA'S INTEREST.

The Hon. Vincent Massy, Representative of the Dominion of Canada, said that Canada was always anxious to create greater production and was keenly interested in the

necessity of applying scientific methods to agriculture. Canada and the West Indies were complementary to each other, each supplying the other with goods which it could not produce itself. As they all knew, the Canadian-West Indian Trade Agreement had been arranged in order to facilitate the exchange of produce. He hoped, too, that Canadians and West Indians would exchange visits. Canada was interested in the College as an Imperial movement, whose efforts were devoted to the increase of production. He could assure them of Canada's keen interest in the work of the College, and he wished the College every success.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

The Hon. N. C. Havenga, Minister of Finance of South Africa, congratulated the Governing Body of the College on the work it had so far accomplished. South Africa, he went on to say, was not a tropical country, but some of their problems were akin to those of tropical countries. He had been glad to learn of students of the College going to South Africa. South Africa welcomed them, and all who might follow from the College, whether as scientists or settlers. The country had many pests to contend with, as, for example, the insects which wiped out the coffee plantations in Natal. Agricultural research, which was one of the leading features of the Imperial Conference, was of great value, not only for the Empire, but for the whole world. An institution like the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture was similarly of interest to all. He was glad to see that the Dominions were trying to do their share in helping. In South Africa they were conducting an educative campaign, and were trying to teach the agriculturists to solve their own problems under the guidance of trained scientists. The part played by agricultural colleges was a most important one, and, therefore, he could not speak too highly of the Imperial College and its work.

A TRIBUTE FROM NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Hon. W. J. Higgins, K.C., Minister of Justice of Newfoundland, expressed regret that Mr. Monroe, Prime Minister of Newfoundland, had found it impossible to attend the luncheon. He thought that the subject before them was one on which Newfoundlanders had better listen than talk. Nevertheless, Newfoundland was at least interested in tropical produce. He thought that the idea of

the marriage of the temperate and tropical regions was excellent, and he hoped that the ceremony would not be delayed. Newfoundland would do all she could and would give the bride away. The report of the President had referred to the possibilities of energy being supplied by alcohol, but whilst Newfoundland had an acquaintance with alcohol from Jamaica, they were already well supplied with energy from their water powers. Newfoundland was only a small country, but small as was its population, it could do something. It could supply the tropical countries with ice. He was not going to make promises, but he trusted that all Dominions not in the Tropics would help in the great work of the College. They could, if they combined to do so, realise the idea that the British Empire could exist if all the rest of the world was submerged. He wished the College every success.

INDIA'S APPRECIATION.

The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, one of the Indian delegates to the Imperial Conference, said that any research work in tropical agriculture was of great interest to India. He would remind them that the first College of Tropical Agriculture was established in India during the Viceroyalty of the Marquis Curzon, of Pusa. He did not know how far Indian students were likely to benefit from the Imperial College, but he was assured that any Indian student who went there would find a welcome. The establishment of a college of this kind in the West Indies and the existence of one in India were for the benefit of the whole Empire. He wished the Imperial College every success. India was proud of being the first to establish a college, and he hoped his country would be able to give the Imperial College the benefit of its experience. The Government of India would be interested in the welfare of the College, and he hoped that the two Colleges would be able to exchange information.

There were also present :—

Sir Francis Bell, G.C.M.G., K.C. (Minister without Portfolio, New Zealand), Mr. D. T. Chadwick, C.S.I., C.I.E. (Secretary to the Government of India), Viscount Burnham, C.H., Lord Queenborough, G.B.E., Sir Halford Mackinder, P.C., Sir Campbell Stuart, K.B.E., Mr. S. G. Tallents, C.B., C.B.E., Mr. R. H. Jackson, Mr. Charles F. Wood, Mr. Harold Cox, and the following Governors of the College :

Sir David Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S., Professor F. O. Bower, Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Sir James Currie, K.B.E., C.M.G., Mr. E. R. Darnley, M.A., B.Sc., Sir Edward Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, the Master of Elibank, Sir John Farmer, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., Mr. W. Scott Herriot, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., Captain Arthur W. Hill, C.M.G., M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., Sir William Himbury, Sir Norman Lamont, Bt., J.P., D.L., Sir Robert Rutherford, and Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., C.B.E., B.A. (*Secretary*).

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture was the subject of a leading article in the *Daily Telegraph* of November 15th, the text of which is given below :—

Among the numerous activities to which a new impetus will be given by the proceedings of this year's Conference of Empire statesmen is the work of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the governing body of which entertained the representatives of the Dominions at luncheon on Saturday. There was a time when the production of the fruits of the earth in tropical lands was regarded as a matter in which Nature needed little or no assistance, and the task of the farmer or planter was approached in a more leisurely spirit than that which the climate of Europe encouraged. With the development of competition in the world's markets for tropical produce that vision passed away ; a pressing need arose for scientific training in this kind of cultivation, and for research directed to the possibilities of its development. It was under the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon that the first institution for such work was established to deal with the particular problems of India. Lord Milner, when he was at the Colonial Office, initiated the plan for a college that should take the whole field of tropical agriculture for its province. It was actually established in Trinidad some three years ago, and has already done invaluable work. But as Sir Arthur Shipley told his audience on Saturday, the dearth of men trained to act as advisers, administrators, and estate managers is still very great ; and even more serious is the need for the services of expert entomologists and mycologists throughout the Empire. The loss due to the ravages of insect pests amounts in the aggregate to many

millions yearly ; it is largely avoidable when the right measures are taken, and a steady advance in the knowledge of how best to deal with that problem is assured by the work of the Imperial College. This is but one aspect of its usefulness. The importance of its research work in cultivation pure and simple was at once recognised by the cotton-growing interests, which were among the first contributors to its support. It is hoped now that its financial position may be strengthened and made unassailable by a joint Imperial effort, and this was the purpose of the speeches of Sir Arthur Shipley and of the Secretary for Dominion Affairs on Saturday. Mr. Amery stated that nearly £90,000 had now been subscribed of the £100,000 which Lord Milner had regarded as necessary for the establishment of the College. Of that sum £15,000 had been secured by Mr. Amery from the Treasury last year, and this year a further sum of £42,000 has been obtained under the arrangement made by the Empire Marketing Board with the cotton industry, which has furnished £21,000 in consideration of the Board contributing a like amount. An annual grant from the Board towards the carrying on of the ordinary work of the College is also contemplated ; but there remains, as Mr. Amery pointed out, the need of a substantial endowment fund to put the institution beyond all financial risks. Keen interest in the work of the College was shown in the subsequent speeches from the Dominion representatives, and especially in those of the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, where tropical agriculture and its development play an important part in national economy. Valuable assistance may now be hoped for from the Dominion Governments ; and it may be added that the Crown Colony Administrations, practically all of which are directly concerned in the work of the College, might well consider the question of making their contributions to its support. What has been so admirably initiated at Trinidad is work for the whole Empire, and every part of the Empire might properly take pride in the knowledge that the Imperial College owed something to its voluntary and much-needed assistance.

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

ITS OBJECTS AND WORK

THE Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture was founded in 1921 as the outcome of the recommendations of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee appointed in 1919 by the Right Hon. Viscount Milner, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The objects of the College are to provide: (a) Training in the science and practice of tropical agriculture to students intending to become tropical planters, agricultural administrators or officers, or specialists in different branches of agricultural science and technology, and to offer facilities for the study of tropical agriculture to graduates of other colleges and universities; and (b) facilities for research.

The College buildings are situated in healthy surroundings on a savannah 85 acres in extent at St. Augustine, Trinidad, and include well-equipped class rooms and laboratories and an instructional Sugar Factory equipped with plant of the most modern description. A Hostel is now in course of erection for the students, who have hitherto been accommodated in boarding houses in the neighbourhood.

The affairs of the College are controlled by a Governing Body, of which Sir Arthur Everett Shipley, G.B.E., LL.D., Sc.D., F.R.S., is chairman. On it are represented the University of Cambridge, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Glasgow University, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

The Principal is Dr. Hugh Martin Leake, M.A., Sc.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S., who is assisted by a staff of Professors of and Lecturers in Agriculture, Botany and Genetics, Chemistry and Soil Science, Economics, Mycology and Bacteriology, Sugar Technology and Zoology and Entomology. There is also a Professor of Sanitation and Tropical Hygiene.

Students who have passed through the College are already employed in the following parts of the British Empire:—The Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Uganda, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, the Sudan, Ceylon, Barbados, Trinidad, Antigua and British Guiana.

Further particulars regarding the College may be obtained from Mr. A. G. Howell, Chief Clerk and Registrar, St. Augustine, Trinidad, B.W.I., or from Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., C.B.E., B.A., Secretary, 14, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

